

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 16, 2009 – 5:00 p.m.
Mayor's Reception Room
Room 405, 4th Floor City Hall

Members Present: Donna Ennis; Warner Wirta; Toni Dickenson; Donna Bluebird; Ron Boshey (arrived late)

Excused Absent: Bea Kitto; Michele Gordon; Ricky Defoe; Joy Dorscher

Unexcused Absent: Renee Van Nett

Others present: See sign-in sheets

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Meeting was called to order by Donna Ennis, Co-chair. Commissioners introduced themselves, as did those present.

Motion by Toni Dickenson, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve amending the agenda to reflect 3-c to be Melanie Ford; 3-d to be Spirit Mountain. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2009 MEETING:

Motion by Toni Dickenson, seconded by Donna Ennis, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beth Hawpetoss attended the meeting. She is with the Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) Program in Superior, Wisconsin. Beth announced there will be a fest this Thursday, November 19, 2009, at the Junior High School (Middle School). Beth also had questions on how to get on the American Indian Commission. Beth was informed to go to City Clerk's Office. Beth would also like to volunteer on some of the Commissions sub-committees (Education, Environment, and Criminal) if possible. Beth can be reached at (715) 760-1889.

Donna Ennis announced she received a job announcement from Minnesota Power for an Information Technology Security Analyst (IT Services).

AICHO's Gimaajii (YWCA Housing/Indian Center) Report – Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts said they are on the verge of closing with MHFA any day. Ribbon Cutting is set for December 3, 2009, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the YWCA, located at 202 West 2nd Street.

Warner Wirta asked about the Indian Center at the YWCA – will there be a connection with Spirit Mountain? Sherry stated there is no direct connection to Spirit Mountain, and it is unknown to her how that will work. Issues will be discussed at a later time. There

will be a place for Native American Community to gather and discuss issues. (One year of construction will give time for other issues to be discussed.)

Donna Bluebird asked about grants for children that are enrolled in Tribes other than Fond du Lac.

Sherry hopes to see Commission at the ground breaking on the 3rd.

2010-2014 Consolidated Plan Summary and DAIC Comments on Plan – Community Development staff, Kathy Severson and Steven Robertson discussed the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan. Money allocated to the City totals approximately \$4 Million to address housing, basic needs, suitable living, and expand on Economic Development (see handouts). There will be a public hearing on December 15, 2009 at 6:00 in Council Chambers for citizens to comment on the drafted Plan.

Donna Bluebird asked if Community Development can help with funding for non Fond du Lac Kids.

Update on the progress of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) - Melanie Ford summarized on the sub-committees and the work they are doing regarding defining a community and the definition of risk behavior, and the data that is being gathered. Melanie mentioned that they need more commission representatives to get on the sub-committees. Let Melanie's office know if interested in Sub-Committees.

There will be a press conference with Mending the Sacred Hoop – Audit Done – and will announce their Report and Recommendations. Also working on implementing recommendations.

Donna Bluebird asked about the Police roughing up African American and Native Americans. She would like to see the police dealt with regarding these incidents. Melanie mentioned the Civilian Review Board, which will deal with these issues. Ron Boshey mentioned that he meets with Chief Ramsey once a month and Chief Ramsey wants reports if issues arise regarding behavior and derogatory remarks. Ron believes Chief Ramsey to be sincere in wanting to address issues.

Donna Ennis – Civilian Review Board – Press Release roll out was done – Tony LaDeaux had wanted Ilene Luna to do needs assessment, but money still needs to be found; \$25,000 is guaranteed but need to raise another \$25,000. Ilene is hoping to start in January.

Ron Boshey – commended Melanie Ford for all her office is doing to address all these issues.

Spirit Mountain – Warner Wirta said he would like to invite Nancy Nelson and Willard Munger from the Spirit Mountain Board to the January meeting to find out what is happening on Spirit Mountain regarding the water slide. Warner feels if this type of

money can be spent, why can't a Native American be put on their board? The Mayor and the City appointed the Board Member but not an Indian – Warner wants it pushed strongly to get Native American on the Board. Private parties are buying land at the base of the Mountain. Warner is concerned about pollution. Warner asks where does DAIC go from here. Warner wants a letter sent to Roger Reinhert regarding the Board appointment.

Ron Boshey mentioned maybe a Spirit Mountain Native Committee needs to be formed so the City will listen (let the people talk and approach their board).

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 Work Plan – January 25, 2010 Annual Meeting; Review DAIC attendance and by-laws and new members; also Sub-Committee assignments. Reviewed all. (see handout of Calendar / Agenda)

There will be no meeting in December

Nominations Committee will call commissioners to see who is interested in Chair; Co-Chair; or Secretary. In January will announce who nominees are. Donna Ennis would still like to Co-Chair. Donna Ennis stated Michele does not want to be Secretary and she did not know what Ricky's position is. Donna Bluebird and Renee Van Nett will be on the Nomination Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Donna Ennis said she got an e-mail sent to her and Ricky and the Human Rights Chair regarding the Duluth News Tribune allowing public editorials online regarding defamatory comments. Donna read off some of the articles posted. Bob Grytdal suggests inviting Duluth News Tribune staff to attend a Human Rights Commission Meeting on December 9, 2009.

Warner Wirta read a letter that will be going to the Congress of American Indians and to the Editor Column regarding the Sweat Lodge Situation.

Ron Boshey said he has been busy attending ceremonies. He is focusing on committees and will be attending the HRA Board meeting next week. Ron would like coffee at the DAIC meetings.

Donna Bluebird said she would like to know when and where the Human Rights meeting will be on December 9, 2009, and what time. Donna Ennis will let her know the details.

Toni Dickenson – Would like a laptop to be at the future meetings because handwriting the minutes is too hard.

NEXT MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:

Next meeting will be January 25, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Reception Room, Room 405, Fourth Floor City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Ron Boshey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.